GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2714
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2008
EXPORT OF TOBACCO TO CHINA
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has shown interest to import Indian Tobacco;

(b) if so, whether China has put a pre-condition in this regard and both the countries are close to finalise a protocol on tobacco;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto and time by when this protocol is likely to be announced?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d) Yes Sir, a protocol of Phytosanitary requirements for the export of Tobacco leaves from India to China between the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) of the Republic of India and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) of the People's Republic of China has been signed on 14th January 2008. The export of tobacco leaves to China will be subject to following pre-conditions as stipulated in the Protocol: 1. The tobacco leaves exported to China, which must be produced in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka of India and have been cured and re-dried, must comply with the relevant phytosanitary and sanitary laws and regulations of China, and meet the requirements as stipulated in the Protocol.

2. The importers of tobacco must obtain the import quarantine permit from AQSIQ before trade contracts are signed.

3. MOA will take effective monitoring measures in the field to ensure that the tobacco producing area is free of tobacco blue mold. If tobacco blue mold is found, MOA shall inform AQSIQ immediately and the tobacco trade will be temporarily suspended accordingly.

4. The tobacco leaves must be securely packaged in airproof way to prevent the contamination of tobacco blue mold and other quarantine pests. During the processing and transportation, MOA should take necessary measures to prevent the contamination from the other production areas' tobacco leaves. The packing material for tobacco must be clean, sanitary, unused and comply with the phytosanitary requirements of China. Each carton should be labeled to include the following information: type of tobacco, production place, harvesting year and processing plant. The containers to be loaded for tobacco must be clean and free of soil and other foreign material.

5. The tobacco must be free of any other quarantine concern to China and plant debris and soil. If live insects such as tobacco beetle (Lasioderma serricorne) are found, fumigation or other measures must be conducted for the consignment.

6. MOA shall conduct export quarantine inspection for tobacco leaves. For the consignment of tobacco leaves which meets the requirements stipulated in this protocol, MOA shall issue a Phytosanitary Certificate according to the standard of IPPC and with the following statements as an additional declaration: "The consignment is in compliance with requirements described in the Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for the Export of tobacco leaves from India to China signed at Beijing on 14 January, 2008 and is free from tobacco blue mold and other quarantine pest".

7 When the shipment of tobacco leaves arrives at the entry ports, AQSIQ will examine relevant certificate, labels and conduct inspection and quarantine. If the tobacco blue mold is found in arrival, the consignment will be returned or destroyed. AQSIQ will immediately inform MOA that the importation of tobacco leaves from India is temporarily suspended. Both parties shall conduct investigations to find causes and take relevant effective corrective measures. If any live insects are found on arrival, the consignment will subject to fumigation. If other inconformity is found, the consignment will be treated in accordance with the relevant articles of the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Entry and Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine and its regulations for implementation.

8. In order to review and assess the implementation of this protocol, AQSIQ will dispatch experts to conduct on-site inspection every two years.